

IN THE SPECIFICATION

Please amend the specification as provided:

At page 1, line 1:

The invention described herein relates to a furan polymer impregnated wood which is uniform in colour and density throughout the treated zone. In order to obtain the polymer impregnated wood, a parent wood has been impregnated with a polymerizable furfuryl alcohol monomer mixture containing at least water, furfuryl alcohol, a stabilizing low boiling point organic co-solvent and at least one initiator. The invention also relates to a method for preparing a furan impregnated wood and uses thereof.

At page 2, line 9:

Another mode of creating stable solutions without the use of the stabilizers mentioned above is to use stabilizing low boiling point organic co-solvents. Such co-solvents are methanol, ethanol and acetone. These co-solvents are both good solvents of furfuryl alcohol and good swelling agents for wood. These co-solvents keep the pH value up during storage and impregnation, thereby prolonging the useful service life of the treating solutions, and when they are removed from the impregnated wood before curing the pH goes down as the co-solvent is evaporated from the wood. An effective co-solvent removal step has to be added to the treatment process. This removal step is preferably a vacuum drying process with a system for recovery of the co-solvent, so that the co-solvent can be reused. By the use of stabilizing organic co-solvents, there is no need for ~~other~~ added stabilizers and the

~~initializer initiator~~: FA ratio can be reduced. This leads to lower amounts of leachable substances in the resulting wood product.

At page 2, line 22:

~~Stabilizing Organic~~ co-solvents maintained the pH of useful treating mixtures until after the wood was impregnated. Then the pH decreased (became more acid) which facilitated curing.

At page 2, line 35, extending to page 3, line 3:

In one embodiment of this invention, there is provided a furan polymer impregnated wood, characterized by wood impregnated with a polymerizable furfuryl alcohol monomer mixture containing at least water, furfuryl alcohol, ~~a stabilizing an organic~~ co-solvent selected from acetone or a low-temperature boiling alcohol such as methanol, ethanol or isopropanol and combinations thereof, and an initiator selected from maleic anhydride, phthalic anhydride, maleic acid, malic acid, phthalic acid, benzoic acid, citric acid, zinc chloride, aluminum chloride, other cyclic organic anhydrides and acids and combinations thereof.

At page 3, line 4:

It is noted that said ~~stabilizing low boiling point organic~~ co-solvent can be used alone or in combination with at least another ~~stabilizing~~ co-solvent ~~so long as solubility of the initiated FA is maintained~~. The same applies for said initiator.

At page 3, line 6:

In another embodiment of this invention, there is provided a method for preparing a furan polymer impregnated wood, characterized in that the wood is impregnated by one impregnation step with polymerizable furfuryl alcohol monomer mixture containing at least furfuryl alcohol, stabilizing an organic co-solvent selected from acetone or a low-temperature boiling alcohol such as methanol, ethanol or isopropanol and combinations thereof, water, and at least an initiator selected from maleic anhydride, phthalic anhydride, maleic acid, malic acid, phthalic acid, benzoic acid, citric acid, zinc chloride, aluminum chloride, other cyclic organic anhydrides and acids and combinations thereof, followed by a curing step.

At page 3, line 23:

The key to the invention is the use of an organic co-solvent as a ~~stabilizer and~~ a diluent for catalyzed furfuryl alcohol monomer, which allows the initiated monomer to be water soluble and remain stable in storage.

At page 3, line 26:

The co-solvents and initiators have similar affinity for wood as furfuryl alcohol and therefore enter the wood and remain in solution as deeply as it penetrates. Wherever the solution penetrates, it is polymerizable. The initiators are selected from any water-soluble, organic, anhydride-containing compound as well as acids including maleic acid, malic acid, phthalic acid, citric acid and benzoic acid. However, preferably a compound selected from maleic anhydride, phthalic anhydride, citric acid and combinations thereof is used. More preferably, maleic anhydride or phthalic anhydride in combination with citric acid is used, most preferably combinations of all of the three compounds maleic anhydride, phthalic anhydride and citric acid is used. The stabilizing organic co-solvents include acetone and organic alcohols with low boiling point and high vapour pressure, preferably alcohols such as methanol, ethanol and isopropyl alcohol, and most preferably methanol or ethanol.